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File: SAS

ACIS 314/84
31 May 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: [] OLL

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FROM: []

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Chief, Arms Control Intelligence Staff

SUBJECT: Responses to Questions Regarding ASAT
from Senator Warner []

*from 12 April 1984
SAS*

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1. The attached is in response to your request that written questions directed to NIO/SP and me from Senator Warner of the Senate Arms Service Committee be prepared. []

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2. We have coordinated the substance of these responses with the Intelligence Community. Please note that the attached Soviet statements about [] must be cleared through appropriate DO officials and we have [] that underway. []

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3. Should you have questions about this or other topics, please call and let me know. []

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Attachment
ACIS 297/84-a

cc: DO Reports Control

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ACIS 314/84
31 May 1984

SUBJECT: Responses to Questions Regarding ASAT
from Senator Warner [redacted]

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DDI/ACIS [redacted] (31May84)

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TASS 11 May 84

Aleksey Leonov, Deputy Chief of the Yuriy Gagarin Cosmonauts' Training Center, said the Soviet cosmonauts are alarmed by the fact that scientific and economic aspects of the American space shuttle programme are being moved to the background, according to press reports. There is increasingly more evidence that this programme is being used by the Pentagon whose aims are far from the interests of world science, from the tasked of peaceful uses of space technology.

TASS 11 Apr 84

The ability of re-usable spacecraft to retrieve satellites from their orbits instantly commanded the attention of the US military. Pentagon strategists which have already reserved over one-third of all shuttle missions are genuinely interested in bringing spy satellites and other equipment back to earth for repairs and a repeated launch.

KRASYANYA ZVEZDA, 10 Apr 84

According to the NASA spokesmen, the planned experiments serve only "scientific purposes." It is, however, well known that the Pentagon is making extensive use of space shuttles for its own purposes. The military department has "booked" more than one-third of all space shuttle flights until 1994 in order to replace spy satellites in orbit, launch other military-purpose projects, and also conduct tests on laser weapons components.

Yu. Sadov 28 Feb 84 PRAVDA article: "One Against All. US Plans for The Militarization of Space"

It should be noted here that the space shuttle program is also being switched to military purposes. Priority in shuttle launches is given to the Department of Defense, which is planning to put into orbit satellites for military purposes, orbital command centers, and new types of space weapons. A center from which military shuttles will be launched is being set up at Vandenburg AFB (California).

Radio Moscow, 12 Dec 83

[Text] Following the conclusion of the latest flight by the American space shuttle, US propaganda agencies have raised a great fuss worldwide about the shuttle's great success. In "Vantage Point" today, Boris Belitskiy speaks of the more sober view that Soviet space scientists take of the shuttle.

Dr. Sergiy Grishin also has grave doubts about the environmental impact of the shuttle, since its solid-fuel boosters are highly

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polluting. They could cause toxic contamination of clouds, trigger acid rains, produce unpredictable changes in weather patterns, and even affect the Earth's ozone layer, which protects the human race from the deadly ultra-violet radiation of the sun. Soviet experts take the view that many of these shuttle faults are the result of pressure from the Pentagon, to get the shuttle off the ground as soon as possible, whatever may be its ecological side effects and other shortcomings. This is confirmed by the program of the shuttle missions to date.

Flight four, for example, was so secret that nothing at all was revealed about the problems it encountered, although it's known that these were quite formidable. All this is part of the Star Wars fever that appears to have gripped Washington, and in which the shuttle is the centerpiece of the administration's militaristic ambitions on space, which are a threat to the very future of mankind.

TASS, 2 Dec 83

Despite the attempts by the American mass media to stress the purely scientific character of the present flight, it is no secret that the whole of the Shuttle space program is primarily of military significance. The Pentagon has already reserved more than one-third of all planned flights by shuttle spacecraft and by 1985 the Department of Defense expects to obtain a launch complex of its own for the launching of these craft at the Vandenberg Air Base in California.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 2 Dec 83 S. Oznobishkher article: "The Pentagon: Space Ambitions"

Meanwhile, the militarization of space in the the United States, embracing more and more new spheres, is following the line of either reducing civilian programs or "militarizing" them. Here, we could cite the reusable shuttle spacecraft, which are effectively being transformed into Pentagon military transports; the most diverse satellite systems--the "eyes and ears" of the military department--and a great many other things.

PRAVDA, 22 Aug 83: Draft Treaty on Banning the Use of Force in Space and from Space with Respect to Earth
Not to Test or use for military, including antisatellite purposes, any manned space craft.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS July 83

For Peaceful Uses of outer Space Professor A. Piradov

In this day and age advances in science and technology can be used not only to benefit man but also to harm him through the

development of new generations of mass destruction weapons, particularly missiles designed to be used in and from outer space. The greatest danger is posed by missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons. In addition, meteorological, navigation, communications, and other types of satellites can be used for military purposes, for example, to perform command and control functions, to conduct ground surveillance, to collect intelligence, and to target intercontinental ballistic missiles. For example, the Shuttle programme includes, among other tasks, testing of military and intelligence system, "inspection" of orbiting Soviet space probes and even capture of satellites.

The US press made it clear that the Pentagon is the main beneficiary of the Shuttle programme. The US top brass are planning to equip these space vehicles with laser weapons. It has also been reported that other users of the Shuttle include the Central Intelligence Agency. In July 1982 the US President issued a directive on the national space policy as a programme of action for the next decade. Under the directive the USA would take whatever action in space it deems "necessary" for its "national security," namely, it would develop and deploy ground support systems, ensure the effectiveness and continuing operation of outer space systems in crisis and conflict situations, develop and deploy operational antisatellite systems, etc.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 25 Jun 83 "On the Path of Militarizing Space" The aim of this experiment was to work out operations for recovering from orbit apparatuses in need of servicing or repair. However, the United States does not conceal that the Pentagon hopes to replace its spy satellites in similar fashion. Thus, the Challenger mission was another step on the path of implementing the Reagan administration's far-reaching plans to militarize space. More than one-third of all the planned space shuttle missions have already been "reserved" by the Pentagon.

Yu. V. Andropov, PRAVDA Interview, 27 Mar 83
In the United States, as is known, a weapons system is being developed at an increasing pace in the interests of conducting military operations in and from space. Plans to create and deploy missile and laser weapons in space are being realized including with the use of the reusable space shuttle.

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1981 Soviet Draft Treaty to ban deployment of any weapons in Outer Space

The member states undertake not to put into orbit around the earth objects with weapons of any kind, not to install such weapons on celestial bodies and not to deploy such weapons in outer space in any other way, including also on piloted space vessels of multiple use both of the existing type and also of other types which may appear in member states in the future.

Radio Moscow Military observer Aleksey Vasilyev commentary 17 Apr 81
Former Air Force Secretary Mark said the Pentagon had taken part in the development of the shuttle at all the key stages. Deputy chief of staff of the US Air Force, General O'Mally, made possible by the shuttle's launch are one of the priorities of the Pentagon. The New York TIMES says bluntly that the space shuttle would [sentence as received] play an important part in gaining strategic superiority over America's opponents.

The proposed utilization of the shuttle for military purposes also violates another international agreement. Suffice it to recall the treaty on the principles of space research and utilization of 1967. According to this treaty space studies should benefit all of mankind and promote peace and international security. The pronouncements on military supremacy and new arms systems based on orbital craft clearly contradict the letter and spirit of this treaty.

TASS 12 Apr 81

In 1979 the US Air Force command submitted a report to the then President Carter about a still broader use of the programme. The New York TIMES writes that when the Carter Administration agreed to increase appropriations for the shuttle project, it was guided exclusively by the interests of the Department of Defense, and not by the interests of scientists or the NASA. Were it not for the Pentagon, the programme would have been folded several years ago.

It was owing to the Pentagon's efforts that the appropriations for the project have been considerably increased. Over the ten years its cost has doubled and exceeded 10,000 million dollars.

As was stated by former US secretary of the air force, H. Mark, the Department of Defense took an active part in the programme at all its stages. The US military associate with the programme their far-reaching plans of projecting the arms race into outer space. One of the major tasks during the first flights of the spacecraft, as is pointed out by the ASSOCIATED PRESS agency, will be to test a laser weapons guidance system. It is supposed

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that the weapons will be capable of hitting "enemy satellites and missiles."

The Pentagon also counts on using shuttle spacecraft for regular injections of spy satellites and other heavy military equipment into outer space. The ABC reported that it was exactly on the Defense Department's insistence that the spacecraft's carrying capacity has been increased up to 30 tons.

Radio Moscow 13 Apr 81 - Viktor Yenzikeyev commentary
In America, too, articles and statements are now appearing on the possibilities of using the flight of shuttle-type space vehicles for peaceful purposes. However, such articles and statements are clearly a minority against a background of speculation about the spaceship's potential military possibilities. People in the Pentagon are gleefully rubbing their hands. after all, more than two-thirds of the shuttle flights are to be made in the Pentagon's interests. The ship's 30-ton carrying capacity will enable it to put round the earth orbit spy satellites of a new generation, military laser stations, and other military hardware. The Pentagon regards the shuttle as a spacecraft intended for shooting down the enemy's artificial satellites or seizing and bringing them to the vehicle's 18 meter hatch. In other words, the Pentagon sees the shuttle in the role of an omnipotent and (?insatiable) space pirate. Talks on the issue are being followed up by actions.

According to US Air Force Secretary Verne Orr there are plans for setting up a special center at Peterson base, Colorado, to direct future military operations in space. The top men in the Pentagon and the administration's representatives make no secret of their intentions to use the shuttle space program for achieving domination in space and military strategic advantages over the Soviet Union. So in the chase for a military superiority--which is really a delusion--the men in Washington intend to turn the space around our globe into an arena of confrontation between our two countries. In this context the shuttle program can be regarded as a new round in the arms race, this time in space.

TASS 15 Apr 81

The fact that mostly a military importance is being attached to the shuttle program was confirmed by the former US Secretary of Defense Harold Brown. Speaking on American television he stressed that Columbia and similar ships could be used already now for reconnaissance, for organizing systems of communication. The former head of the Pentagon noted that the nature of the use of ships within the framework of the shuttle program would be determined by those who pay the launching

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costs. In the opinion of the American press this means that the Pentagon, whose "space budget" already exceeds all allocations for the needs of NASA, intends to put this program very much under its control. TIME magazine reports that by the end of the 1980s there are plans for at least 113 flights by reusable ships with purely military aims.

International Observer Roundtable program Radio Moscow 31 May 81, PRAVDA observer Gennadiy Vladimirovich Vasileyv:

[Ariyovich] Gennadiy Vladimirovich, you mentioned very interesting figures. They are indeed very indicative. If you will allow me, there is another small figure which characterizes the US attitude toward the arms race. Discussing the bill for the record military budget recently, the US Senate allocated an additional \$50 million for laser weapons to be deployed in space. Apparently, this is still only an initial figure for the start-up of this program. Reusable spacecraft will be employed to test these weapons.

KOMMUNIST article, Marshal Ogarkov, July 81 "For Our Soviet Motherland: Guarding Peaceful Labor"

In the first place it is planned to speed up the further buildup of strategic offensive forces. There are the new Trident missile submarines, the MX ICBMs, the multipurpose space shuttle system, strategic bombers, and air-, sea-, and ground-launched strategic cruise missiles.

International Affairs, November 1981, V. Basmonov, "For a Weapons-Free Space"

Aware of the grave concern these schemes are generating among the peaceloving peoples, the USSR came out at the current 36th Session of the UN General Assembly with a Proposal on the Conclusion of a Treaty on the Prohibition of the Stationing of Weapons of Any Kind in Outer Space. The USSR proposed a treaty under which parties to it would pledge not to put objects with any type of weapons into orbit round the Earth, not to emplace such weapons on celestial bodies or otherwise, including sophisticated manned shuttle spaceships of the existing type and of other types that may appear in the future.

In its military plans for outer space, the Pentagon is pinning its main hopes on the space Shuttle which made its first flight in April 1981. With it, the US Air Force can considerably raise the effectiveness of reconnaissance, and diversify the means of combat actions for striking targets in outer space, in the air and on land. According to Chicago Tribune, the President is expected to declare the development and improvement of the

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Shuttle programme, including, probably, the creation of manned orbital stations as a priority task.

The US military space programme provides for the stage-by-stage militarization of outer space, to be effected through the deployment of various new weapons. Work is apace, for example, on laser weapons which will be installed on the Shuttle spacecraft, their main task being to destroy the satellites and antisatellites of a potential enemy and also intercontinental missiles right after their take-off. Starting in 1978, the USA has carried out a series of tests the laser "cannon" designed to destroy rockets and shells in mid-air and also tanks and unmanned planes. However, using lasers on the Earth, states a report of the Defense Department to the White House, is less effective than in outer space which provides ideal conditions for this type of weapon. It ensures high accuracy in fighting not only missiles and satellites but aircraft radar installations as well. The Pentagon plans to test the laser "cannon" in outer space in April 1982, during the fourth flight of the Shuttle. It is believed that laser installations will be permanently stationed in outer space by the end of the 1980s.

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